

## **NOTICE OF PREPARATION**

### **TOMALES BAY STATE PARK**

#### **GENERAL PLAN DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan for Tomales Bay State Park. The Department of Parks and Recreation is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act and pursuant to Section 15082 (CCR) of the State EIR guidelines and has prepared the Notice of Preparation. Your agency's comments are requested in connection with the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project location, description, possible environmental impacts, initial study checklist, and map are attached.

Your response must be sent to the address below not later than thirty (30) days after the receipt of this notice. We would appreciate the name of a contact person in your agency. If you have any questions, please call Ellen Wagner at (916) 445-8929.

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## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

The California Department of Parks and Recreation is the Lead Agency under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act and is considering the preparation of a program level (first tier) environmental document for the project identified below.

### **PROJECT TITLE:**

Tomales Bay State Park General Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Report

### **PROJECT LOCATION:**

Tomales Bay State Park is located in the western portion of Marin County. The park's headquarters area is accessed via Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Pierce Point Road, just north of the town of Inverness.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The general plan will provide a long-term outline and guidelines for future proposed facilities, land use, resource policies, management, operation, interpretation, and concession operations at Tomales Bay State Park. Specific development proposals or management plans are not part of the general plan. This general plan and draft environmental impact report is the first tier of environmental analysis. Future implementation of general plan proposals may occur in phases as funding becomes available, and these proposals will be subject to additional (tiered) environmental review.

The general plan will be based upon the park's classification, Declaration of Purpose, and Vision, which will provide a context and direction for future park management and site specific planning and development. The plan will consider project alternatives and will recommend further studies for future development projects.

The general plan will develop park-wide goals and guidelines and may also call for the preparation of management plans covering subjects such as natural resources and sensitive species, cultural resources, park recreation, interpretation, trails, regional influences, and visitor impacts.

The following are some of the primary planning issues anticipated in this process:

This planning effort will focus on the primary question of how do we meet increasing demands for public recreation at Tomales Bay State Park while also improving the protection, preservation, and management of the park's unique natural and cultural resources, and protect its special sense of place.

**Regional influences and parks relationship with surrounding areas.**

Opportunities may exist to improve the park's ecological, biological, recreational, and educational relationships with neighboring lands, land-uses, landowners, jurisdictions, services, and facilities.

**Growing demand for recreational opportunities and visitor experiences.**

Opportunities may exist to provide more recreational opportunities while improving protection of natural and cultural resources.

**Visitor use impacts on resources.** The general plan will evaluate the impacts of existing and potential development and visitor use on sensitive resources, particularly in heavy use areas such as Heart's Desire Beach.

**Preservation and restoration of sensitive plant and animal species and habitats in the park.** The park is currently a refuge for a number of sensitive plant and animal species. Opportunities exist to enhance habitats, restore populations, and protect these and other less sensitive species. This plan may establish natural preserves to better protect significant resources within the park.

**Exotic plant and animal species management.** Exotic plant and animal species are negatively affecting the park's native plants, animals, and habitats. Guidelines are needed for long-term management.

**Fire ecology management.** Opportunities may exist to improve the park's fire ecology management program and cooperation with fire control agencies. Goals and guidelines are needed for future management plans.

**Transportation, circulation, and parking.** Opportunities may exist to lessen traffic impacts on intrinsic park values and improve park entrances, circulation, and parking. Road and trail systems may need improvement to meet future park management and recreation needs.

**Park interpretive and educational resources, programs, and facilities.**

Opportunities may exist to improve the park's interpretive and educational programs and facilities.

**Employee housing.** Opportunities may exist to improve and/or increase employee housing.

**POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

If the guidelines and proposals made by the general plan were implemented, there may be potential adverse impacts to soils, water quality and flows, wildlife and habitat, aesthetics, cultural resources, and sensitive vegetation. There may be a change in traffic patterns.

**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION CONTACT PERSON:**

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